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## Advantages of Percent Weight Loss as a Method of Reporting Weight Loss after Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass

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### Abstract

**Objective**—Although Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) is a generally effective treatment for severe obesity, weight loss (WL) after this operation is highly variable. Accurate predictors of outcome would thus be useful in identifying those patients who would most benefit from this invasive therapy. WL has been characterized using several different metrics, including the number of BMI units lost ( $\Delta$ BMI), percent baseline WL (%WL), and percent excess body WL (%EBWL). To identify clinically relevant predictors most sensitively it is necessary to avoid confounding by other factors, including preoperative BMI (pBMI), the strongest known predictor of RYGB-induced WL.

**Design and Methods**—To determine the WL measure least associated with pBMI, we analyzed outcomes of 846 patients undergoing RYGB.

**Results**—Patients in this cohort had an average pBMI of 50.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. At weight nadir, they lost an average 19.4 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, 38.7% WL, and 81.2% EBWL. pBMI was strongly and positively associated with  $\Delta$ BMI at both one year ( $r=0.56$ ,  $p=4.7\times 10^{-51}$ ) and nadir ( $r=0.58$ ,  $p=2.8\times 10^{-77}$ ) and strongly but negatively associated with %EBWL at one year ( $r=-0.52$ ,  $p=3.8\times 10^{-44}$ ) and nadir ( $r=-0.45$ ,  $p=7.2\times 10^{-43}$ ). In contrast, pBMI was not significantly associated with %WL at one year ( $r=0.04$ ,  $p=0.33$ ), and only weakly associated at nadir ( $r=0.13$ ,  $p=0.0002$ ).

**Conclusions**—Of the metrics examined, %WL is the parameter describing WL after RYGB least influenced by pBMI. It thus improves comparison of WL outcomes across studies of patients undergoing surgery and facilitates the most sensitive identification of novel predictors of surgery-induced WL. We therefore recommend that %WL be adopted more broadly in reporting weight loss after RYGB.

It is estimated that 34% of adults in the United States are overweight and an additional 32% have obesity.<sup>1</sup> The myriad metabolic, inflammatory, degenerative, cognitive, and neoplastic sequelae of obesity together cost more than \$168 billion annually and account for nearly 10% of all healthcare expenditures in the United States.<sup>2</sup> Behavioral and pharmacotherapeutic treatments for severe obesity have been met with limited long-term success.<sup>3–6</sup> In contrast, Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB), the most commonly used surgical therapy for obesity, leads to substantial and sustained weight loss,<sup>7</sup> and recent studies demonstrate that this operation works by altering the normal physiological regulation of energy balance.<sup>8–10</sup> Despite the overall effectiveness of RYGB, however, not all patients

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lose the same amount of weight or obtain the same clinical benefits from this procedure; indeed, several studies have demonstrated a wide and normal distribution of weight loss (WL) outcomes after RYGB.<sup>11–14</sup> The drivers of this wide variation in outcomes remain largely unknown, and a growing effort has been made to identify clinical, demographic, psychological, surgical, and genetic predictors of WL after surgery. The identification of novel predictors of WL after RYGB could provide both insight into the biological mechanisms of action of this procedure, and provide predictive markers that could be used to stratify patients according to their likely change in weight.

In the search for clinically relevant outcome predictors, WL has been characterized using a number of different metrics, including the absolute number of pounds or body mass index (BMI) units lost, weight or BMI achieved after weight loss, the percent baseline weight or BMI loss (%WL), and the percent excess body weight loss (%EBWL). Currently, there is no consensus on the best method for characterizing WL after RYGB, and the arguments for or against any one of these metrics have been dominated by considerations of biological/mechanistic plausibility, ease of communication to the research and clinical communities, historical precedent and perceived clinical relevance.<sup>15–21</sup> Percent EBWL, a metric that is used primarily in describing WL after bariatric surgery,<sup>21</sup> describes the percent of weight loss relative to achieving an “ideal” BMI. Recently, it was proposed that %EBWL be the standard metric for reporting WL after bariatric surgery, and be extended to describing outcomes of other interventions for obesity.<sup>20</sup> Percent WL is a more frequently used metric in the behavioral and pharmacotherapeutic literature, where pre-treatment BMI and the absolute magnitude of WL tends to be lower. Recent reports suggest that the use of total percent weight loss (%WL) be extended to bariatric populations.<sup>22,23</sup> This difference in reporting methods makes results from studies of surgically-induced WL less directly comparable to studies of WL from non-surgical therapies. Because of the wide difference in efficacy between surgery and other interventions this has not been a major problem, but with the development of newer pharmacological and medical device-based therapies with intermediate efficacy, the need for comparison across a broad spectrum of outcomes has become increasingly important.

While these clinical factors are important in choosing how to report WL, it is also important to consider the direct statistical implications of using each metric. Preoperative BMI (pBMI) is one of the strongest known predictors of WL after RYGB when weight is characterized as pounds/BMI lost,<sup>24,25</sup> final weight or BMI,<sup>26,27</sup> or %EBWL.<sup>11,26,28–30</sup> Despite these associations, however, pBMI is not a sufficiently powerful predictor to drive most clinical decision-making, as patients with higher initial BMIs lose less %EBWL yet benefit immensely from RYGB and thus would not be strongly contraindicated for surgery. Therefore, the strong association between pBMI and WL provides limited clinical utility, yet potentially masks the ability to detect associations between WL and potential novel, clinically useful, predictors.

To minimize this concern and facilitate our own search for novel outcome predictors, we sought to identify the method of characterizing WL that is least associated with pBMI in a patient population with severe obesity undergoing Roux-en-Y gastric bypass. We found that %WL is the metric in common use that is least influenced by pBMI. For this reason, and because %WL is currently the metric most widely used to report WL after non-surgical therapies, we suggest that it is the optimal metric for characterizing outcomes across the growing spectrum of WL interventions for obesity.

## METHODS

### Study Population

Participants were recruited from the population of patients undergoing RYGB at a single academic center that is part of a larger 13-hospital network in the Boston metropolitan area. From February 2000 until April 2007, we obtained consent from 998 (97%) of the patients undergoing RYGB at this center. Operations included both open and laparoscopic RYGB performed by one of two surgeons using the same operative techniques; the surgical methods have been described previously.<sup>13</sup> This study was approved by the institutional review board of the Massachusetts General Hospital.

### Endpoint and Covariate Assessment

Demographic and clinical information was extracted from the medical record. We identified a patient's weight nadir, defined as the lowest weight achieved at least 10 months after surgery without coexisting debilitating illness or use of weight-lowering medications. One-year weight was defined as the weight measurement closest to 12 months and within the range of 10–14 months after surgery. Post-operative weights were available for 846 patients (83.3%). Chart-derived nadir weights were validated by telephone interviews in a subset of patients (n=306); there was a 94% concordance between these two sources. Diabetes diagnoses were extracted from patient charts and defined as the presence of any of the following: documentation of diabetes, a fasting glucose measurement  $\geq 126$  mg/dL, or the use of the anti-diabetes medications insulin or metformin.

Weight loss was characterized at one year and at weight nadir using seven different metrics (Table 1). Residuals were calculated by regressing postoperative BMI (the dependent variable) on preoperative BMI (the independent variable) and outputting the residuals from this model. Because residuals derived from regressing postoperative BMI on preoperative BMI are orthogonal to preoperative BMI, we used these residuals as the benchmark of independence from preoperative BMI. WL characterized by the number of pounds lost was calculated by subtracting the patient's final weight from his or her baseline weight. As BMI is a function of weight and height, and height is almost always stable over the course of a weight loss study, BMI lost and pounds lost are closely similar methods for measuring weight loss. Percent weight loss (%WL) was calculated by dividing the absolute pounds lost by the patient's initial weight and is statistically interchangeable with percent BMI change. Percent excess body weight loss (%EBWL) was calculated by dividing the difference between initial BMI and final BMI by the difference between initial BMI and a "normal" target BMI. A BMI of  $25 \text{ kg/m}^2$ , the upper limit of a "normal" BMI, is frequently used as the target, but other standards, including race-specific BMI standards or other "ideal weights" according to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company life tables, may also be used to represent "normal." In this study, %EBWL was calculated using a reference normal BMI of  $25 \text{ kg/m}^2$ . Using this definition, a patient with a BMI of  $35 \text{ kg/m}^2$  has 10 "excess" BMI points, and if this patient were to achieve a BMI of 30, 25, or  $20 \text{ kg/m}^2$  through weight loss intervention, he or she would have lost 50%, 100%, or 150% of his or her excess weight, respectively.

### Statistical Analyses

Patients were divided into seven pBMI groups (35–39.9, 40–44.9, 45–49.9, 50–54.9, 55–59.9, 60–64.9, and  $\geq 65 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ). Means for each WL metric were calculated for each pBMI group, and linear trends across the groups were assessed using a test for trend of the median value within each group. Correlations between pBMI and each continuous metric were assessed using Spearman correlations, and 95% Confidence Intervals (CIs) were calculated with bias adjustment.  $r^2$  measures were derived from linear regressions, and estimates of the

$r^2$  95% Confidence Interval (CI) for for each regression model was estimated with a bootstrapping method that used 500 iterations of resampling with replacement. All analyses were performed using SAS statistical software (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

## RESULTS

At baseline, participants had an average BMI of 50.0 (SD  $\pm$  8.3) kg/m<sup>2</sup> and an average age of 44.7 ( $\pm$  11.5) years; 74.3% were female and 26.2% had diabetes. One year after RYGB, patients lost an average of 17.1 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, 34.2 % of baseline weight, and 71.7 % of excess body weight. By weight nadir, which on average occurred 28.5 months after surgery, patients lost an average of 19.4 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, 38.7 % of baseline weight, and 81.2% of excess body weight (Table 2).

As expected, the residuals derived from regressing postoperative BMI on preoperative BMI showed no difference across pBMI groups ( $r=0$ ,  $p=0.9$  at both one year and weight nadir; Table 2, Figure 1a). In contrast, there was a strong positive association between absolute WL (pounds lost or gained) and pBMI, with patients in lower BMI groups losing significantly less weight ( $r_{1y} = 0.52$ , 95% CI 0.46–0.58,  $p_{1y} = 3.4 \times 10^{-53}$ ;  $r_{nadir} = 0.54$ , 95% CI 0.50–0.60,  $p_{nadir} = 6.5 \times 10^{-84}$ ; Table 2, Figure 1b). As expected, the same pattern is observed when change in BMI, final attained weight, or final attained BMI is used (Table 2, Figure 1b–1e). When WL was characterized as %EBWL, the opposite pattern was observed, with patients at a lower pBMI experiencing greater %EBWL at both 1 year and weight nadir ( $r_{1y} = -0.51$ , 95% CI -0.56–0.45,  $p_{1y} = 1.0 \times 10^{-40}$ ;  $r_{nadir} = -0.43$ , 95% CI -0.48–0.37,  $p_{nadir} = 6.9 \times 10^{-38}$ ; Table 2, Figure 1f). In contrast, there was no association between pBMI group and %WL at one year ( $r_{1y} = 0.04$ , 95% CI -0.04–0.12,  $p_{1y} = 0.52$ ; Table 2), and only a weak association between pBMI and %WL at weight nadir ( $r_{nadir} = 0.13$ , 95% CI 0.05–0.19,  $p_{nadir} = 0.003$ ; Table 2, Figure 1g).

Similar patterns were seen when a continuous characterization of pBMI was used (Table 3). The number of pounds lost was strongly and positively correlated with pBMI at both one year ( $r_{\text{Spearman}}=0.53$ , 95% CI 0.47–0.59,  $p = 4.3 \times 10^{-46}$ ) and at weight nadir ( $r_{\text{Spearman}}=0.55$ , 95% CI 0.51–0.60,  $p = 5.1 \times 10^{-69}$ ); BMI units lost showed a similar pattern (Table 3). %EBWL was strongly but negatively correlated with pBMI at both one year ( $r_{\text{Spearman}} = -0.52$ , 95% CI -0.58–0.46,  $p = 3.8 \times 10^{-44}$ ) and at weight nadir ( $r_{\text{Spearman}} = -0.45$ , 95% CI -0.50–0.39,  $p = 7.2 \times 10^{-43}$ ). In contrast, %WL was not associated with pBMI at one year ( $r_{\text{Spearman}} = 0.04$ , 95% CI -0.04–0.12,  $p = 0.33$ ) and was only weakly associated with pBMI at weight nadir ( $r_{\text{Spearman}} = 0.13$ , 95% CI 0.06–0.19,  $p = 0.0002$ ). While pBMI explains a substantial proportion of the variability in number of pounds lost ( $r^2_{1y} = 0.36$ , 95% CI 0.26–0.45;  $r^2_{nadir} = 0.39$ , 95% CI 0.31–0.47) and %EBWL ( $r^2_{1y} = 0.25$ , 95% CI 0.18–0.31;  $r^2_{nadir} = 0.18$ , 95% CI 0.14–0.23), it explains only a small percentage of the variability in %WL ( $r^2_{1y} = 0.002$ , 95% CI 0–0.01;  $r^2_{nadir} = 0.02$ , 95% CI 0–0.05).

## DISCUSSION

In this study we found that percent weight loss (%WL) has substantial advantages as a metric for characterizing weight loss after RYGB. Relative to other WL parameterizations, including pounds or BMI units lost, attained weight or BMI, and %EBWL, %WL is least associated with baseline BMI. These findings have several important implications for the identification of novel predictors of WL after RYGB. First, the use of %WL can facilitate comparisons of WL outcomes across studies of different surgical and non-surgical interventions where patients' initial BMIs may vary. Second, use of this parameter can allow

for more sensitive identification of other novel predictors, because it is more independent of the potential masking effects of pBMI.

The identification of novel predictors of WL after RYGB may provide insight into the mechanisms of action of this therapy. In addition, these predictors could be used to develop clinical tools to identify those patients who will likely benefit most (and least) from RYGB, thus improving the risk: benefit profile for this highly effective yet invasive treatment. When searching for such predictors, it is necessary to reduce or eliminate sources of bias, including confounding by pBMI in particular.<sup>30</sup> If confounding by pBMI is present, it may be difficult to distinguish between the effect of a potential predictor on WL from the effect of pBMI. For example, diabetes is a known predictor of WL after RYGB.<sup>11,13,31,32</sup> It is also known to be strongly associated with BMI.<sup>33</sup> It is therefore possible that the observed relationship between diabetes and WL is due at least in part to the influence of pBMI on WL (see Supplementary Information). In other words, while the intent of much current research is to identify predictors of WL, there is an inherent risk of simply identifying predictors of pBMI. One way to eliminate such confounding is to ensure that there is no association between pBMI and WL. The residuals derived from the regression of postoperative BMI on preoperative BMI are, by definition, a measure of weight loss independent of initial BMI and are therefore the gold standard by which more user-friendly metrics should be judged. In the present study these residuals were the only metric completely free of association with pBMI at both one year and weight nadir. Using this metric has several limitations, however. First, residuals are not easily communicated to providers, patients, or non-statistician investigators. Second, if the goal is to identify predictors of WL that can be used to distinguish patients who should or shouldn't get a particular intervention, residuals will not be able to be used because the outcome (from which the residuals are derived) will not be known at the outset. Thus, residuals are best used for discovery of potential biological associations between predictors and WL, but are not a viable option for widespread adoption in the research and clinical environments.

In contrast to the lack of association observed between the residuals and pBMI, we observed a strong inverse relationship between %EBWL and pBMI. Similar associations between pBMI and the endpoints %EBWL and %WL have been reported previously.<sup>22,23</sup> Proponents of %EBWL support its use because it conceptually represents the extent of a patient's travel from their baseline weight to a "normal" weight. Using this method, "success" or "failure" after bariatric surgery can be interpreted with respect to the patient's remaining "excess weight" after the procedure. As proposed by Reinhold in 1982,<sup>34</sup> a patient's response to surgery could be described in terms of how much "excess" weight the patient carried above his or her "ideal" weight following the bariatric procedure, as the criteria for surgical indication at the time was being 100% above one's ideal weight, with a recognized increase in mortality starting at 50% excess weight.<sup>35</sup> We now know that increased morbidity and mortality occurs at even lower excess weights. The commonly cited minimum 50% EBWL for "success" after bariatric surgery<sup>36</sup> is thus a reinterpretation of the method proposed by Reinhold, and remains a somewhat arbitrary target for "success." Another proposed benefit to the use of %EBWL considers that there is a biological floor to the amount of weight loss that can be achieved, making it an attractive marker of disease improvement or resolution in patients with severe obesity. It is possible that the observed relationship between pBMI and %EBWL reflects the biology of WL after RYGB – to the extent that a higher pBMI represents a more severe form of obesity, severe obesity may "normalize" less completely after RYGB. A parallel can be drawn with other metabolic conditions, such as systolic blood pressure (SBP), where patients with more extreme levels of SBP are less likely to achieve a normal SBP and are more likely to need aggressive treatment with multiple antihypertensive treatments.<sup>37,38</sup> It is also possible, however, that the observed association between pBMI and %EBWL is an artifact of how %EBWL is calculated, leading to skewing of results in



favor of patients with a lower pBMI, who appear to be more “successful” after RYGB because they have less weight to lose to achieve a “normal” BMI. Conversely, in this study and in previous reports,<sup>23,39</sup> patients with a lower pBMI lost *less* absolute weight relative to other patients, thus appearing less “successful” if absolute pounds are chosen as the WL metric. Whether the association between the WL metric and pBMI is observed for biological or artificial reasons, these metrics increase the potential for strong confounding by pBMI when searching for other novel predictors. Although it may be possible to partly account for the effects of pBMI through adjustment for pBMI using statistical models, a relationship between the potential predictor and pBMI would generate the potential for collinearity, which could result in incorrect estimation of the effect size and standard error of the potential novel predictor.

It is thus advantageous to use a WL metric that both minimizes the association with pBMI (unlike pounds lost or %EBWL) and that is clinically interpretable (unlike the use of residuals). In the present study, %WL demonstrated several statistical advantages over the other methods of characterizing WL. The use of %WL also has several advantages over the use of %EBWL beyond its statistical properties.<sup>17</sup> First, %EBWL is based on a somewhat arbitrary target, or “ideal” weight, whether this is defined according to a BMI standard (e.g., a BMI of 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) or another standard such as the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company life tables. It is not intrinsically clear what the “right” target should be, and the choice of target can substantially skew the results, particularly if the starting BMI is relatively low (e.g., <35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) as is more often the case with recent studies examining the efficacy of novel drugs, medical devices or the efficacy of surgery specifically for the treatment of DM. These considerations can be further amplified when applied to studies of populations such as East and South Asians, where increased body fat and metabolic effects of obesity are seen at lower BMIs, and clinical trials are consequently targeted to subjects with lower pBMIs. Future studies will be needed to determine whether the relationship between measures of WL and pBMI holds in independent populations with varying baseline BMIs, racial compositions, and demographic distributions.<sup>40</sup> The advantages of using %WL will also need to be evaluated for other bariatric procedures that target patients with lower initial BMIs, such as gastric banding and sleeve gastrectomy, as there may be bias in using %WL in patients with lower pBMIs. Second, %WL is a more intuitive metric for the patient and provider than %EBWL, thus potentially facilitating patient-provider communication about the patient’s care path. While number of pounds lost or predicted final weight may be the most easily communicated to the patient, these metrics are strongly influenced by pBMI. Moreover, they can easily be derived from %WL. Finally, %WL is the standard of reporting WL in non-surgical studies, and therefore the use of %WL would facilitate comparison across studies of all types of obesity therapies.

In summary, we have observed that %WL has statistical characteristics that make it the optimal metric for describing and reporting WL after RYGB. Because of its clinical and biological implications along with its inherent simplicity, we recommend that %WL be more widely adopted as the primary metric for reporting WL after RYGB and other bariatric procedures. The use of this metric will allow for the least confounded interpretation of WL, enhance the ability to compare different studies without intensive reanalysis of the primary data, and ease communication of results to patients, providers, public health professionals, and others who need to assess and use comparative effectiveness determinations.

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## List of Abbreviations

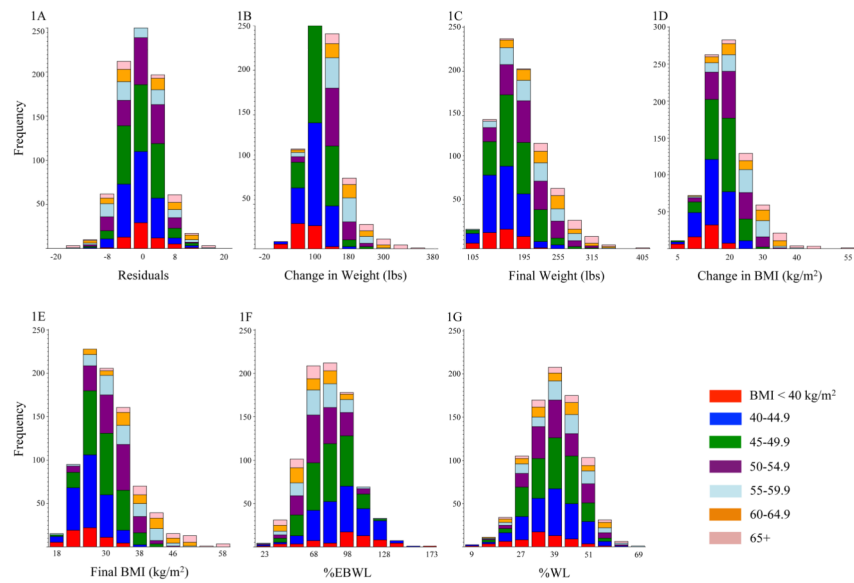
<b>RYGB</b>	Roux-en-Y gastric bypass
<b>WL</b>	weight loss
<b>%EBWL</b>	percent excess body weight loss
<b>BMI</b>	body mass index
<b>%WL</b>	percent weight loss
<b>pBMI</b>	preoperative BMI

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**Figure 1. Weight loss distributions at weight nadir within preoperative BMI groups for different weight loss metrics**

Weight loss by preoperative BMI groups < 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (red), 40–44.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (blue), 45–49.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (green), 50–54.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (purple), 55–59.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (light blue), 60–64.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (orange), 65 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (pink) for (A) residuals of the regression of final BMI on preoperative BMI, (B) change in weight (pounds), (C) final weight attained (pounds), (D) BMI lost (kg/m<sup>2</sup>), (E) final BMI attained (kg/m<sup>2</sup>), (F) percent excess body weight loss, (G) percent weight loss.

Table 1

Different metrics of weight loss

METRIC	ABBREVIATION	FORMULA
Residuals		$e = \text{Observed Final BMI} - \text{Predicted Final BMI}$ <p>Predicted BMI from the equation: <math display="block">\text{Final BMI} = \text{Initial BMI}</math></p>
Weight lost (in pounds or kg)	Δ pounds, Δ kg	$\text{Initial Weight (lbs or kgs)} - \text{Final Weight (lbs or kgs)}$
Weight achieved (in pounds or kg)		$\text{Final Weight (lbs or kgs)}$
BMI units lost	Δ BMI	$\text{Initial BMI} - \text{Final BMI}$
BMI achieved		$\text{Final BMI}$
Percent excess body weight lost	% EBWL	$\frac{\text{Initial BMI} - \text{Final BMI}}{\text{Initial BMI} - \text{Ideal BMI}} * 100$
Percent weight change	% WL	$\frac{\text{Initial Weight} - \text{Final Weight}}{\text{Initial Weight}} * 100$

**Table 2**

Weight loss metrics by preoperative BMI group

	Baseline BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) Group										p for trend
	Overall	35–39.9	40–44.9	45–49.9	50–54.9	55–59.9	60–64.9	65			
N	846	61	206	228	157	94	58	42		N/A	
Preoperative BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	50.0	38.3	42.9	47.5	52.3	57.2	62.4	72.8		N/A	
Residuals at 1 year	0	0.9	−0.2	0	−0.3	−0.2	0.4	0.8		0.66	
Residuals at weight nadir	0	0.8	−0.4	0.2	0.1	−0.6	0.7	0.1		0.85	
Pounds lost at 1 year	106.2	74.8	90.4	99.6	114.0	123.7	129.6	161.3		$3.4 \times 10^{-53}$	
Pounds lost at weight nadir	120.3	80.4	101.0	110.9	128.0	147.1	151.0	193.1		$6.5 \times 10^{-84}$	
Weight (pounds) at 1 year	204.4	165.2	172.9	193.1	215.0	231.4	249.9	310.4		$2.9 \times 10^{-90}$	
Weight (pounds) at weight nadir	188.5	155.6	162.4	180.2	200.0	208.8	227.9	266.9		$3.6 \times 10^{-80}$	
BMI units lost at 1 year	17.1	12.0	14.7	16.2	18.2	19.9	21.2	24.8		$5.8 \times 10^{-59}$	
BMI units lost at weight nadir	19.4	13.0	16.5	18.1	20.5	23.6	24.7	30.3		$7.1 \times 10^{-94}$	
BMI achieved at 1 year	32.9	26.4	28.1	31.2	34.1	37.3	41.3	48.6		$2.8 \times 10^{-140}$	
BMI achieved at weight nadir	30.5	25.3	26.3	29.4	31.8	33.6	37.7	42.4		$4.9 \times 10^{-110}$	
% EBWL at 1 year	71.7	89.3	82.7	72.2	66.8	61.9	56.6	51.1		$1.0 \times 10^{-40}$	
% EBWL at weight nadir	81.2	98.2	92.6	80.7	75.1	73.5	66.2	63.3		$6.9 \times 10^{-38}$	
% WL at 1 year	34.2	31.2	34.4	34.1	34.8	34.9	33.9	33.6		0.42	
% WL at weight nadir	38.7	33.4	38.4	38.2	39.2	41.3	39.6	41.5		0.0002	

**Table 3**  
Spearman correlations and linear regression model  $r^2$  between each outcome and preoperative BMI (continuous)

	Correlation Coefficient	Correlation 95% CI	Correlation P- value	Model $r^2$	$r^2$ 95% CI
Residuals at 1 year	0.005	(-0.08, 0.07)	0.90	0	(0, 0.01)
Residuals at weight nadir	0.008	(-0.06, 0.08)	0.82	0	(0, 0.01)
Pounds lost at 1 year	0.53	(0.47, 0.59)	$4.3 \times 10^{-46}$	0.36	(0.26, 0.45)
Pounds lost at weight nadir	0.55	(0.51, 0.60)	$5.1 \times 10^{-69}$	0.39	(0.31, 0.47)
Pounds (weight) at 1 year	0.66	(0.61, 0.70)	$9.2 \times 10^{-77}$	0.51	(0.45, 0.58)
Pounds (weight) at weight nadir	0.55	(0.51, 0.60)	$2.9 \times 10^{-69}$	0.37	(0.31, 0.43)
BMI units lost at 1 year	0.56	(0.50, 0.61)	$4.7 \times 10^{-51}$	0.39	(0.30, 0.48)
BMI units lost at weight nadir	0.58	(0.53, 0.62)	$2.8 \times 10^{-77}$	0.43	(0.35, 0.50)
BMI achieved at 1 year	0.76	(0.73, 0.79)	$8.0 \times 10^{-120}$	0.67	(0.61, 0.71)
BMI achieved at weight nadir	0.63	(0.59, 0.67)	$2.9 \times 10^{-96}$	0.46	(0.40, 0.52)
% EBWL at 1 year	-0.52	(-0.58, -0.46)	$3.8 \times 10^{-44}$	0.25	(0.18, 0.31)
% EBWL at weight nadir	-0.45	(-0.50, -0.39)	$7.2 \times 10^{-43}$	0.18	(0.14, 0.23)
% WL at 1 year	0.04	(-0.04, 0.12)	0.33	0.002	(0, 0.01)
% WL at weight nadir	0.13	(0.06, 0.19)	0.0002	0.02	(0, 0.05)